india's case for a veto be stronger if it has a permanent membership inside the Security Council and pushes for an equality of treatment? That is the issue. I am sure that the External Affairs Minister would know that is the art of the possible. Otherwise we are playing United States' game. If you reject the report of the Commitee, which the United States very well want you to, then what is the next step? You will continue to be revolving. Once in a while you will get into the Security Council and keep on pleading. So, why not become a permanent member under protest. Sir, this is an important issue and that is why I have taken a minute. I would like Government to reconsider this. Thank you.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, I have great respect for the hon. Member. Let us wait for the report, which would be sent to the Member States by the Secretary-General. And, then, after we have studied it, we will take our decision. But let me make it clear that...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: प्रधानमंत्री जी कुछ तो बोल दें।

श्री सभापति: आप पूछेंगे तो बोलेंगे।

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: This issue is very much before the Government. We are all applying our minds to it. There are various suggestions being made. I personally don't want to look at it as a personal matter. But there are serious ramifications for the proposal made by the hon. Member that we get into the Security Council without a veto. I don't think it will be acceptable to this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Dissolution of Advisory Committees

†29. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to dissolve the Advisory Committees constituted in the Planning Commission that consist of foreign as well as other experts;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that some hurdles are being foreseen in this behalf in the 'mid-term appraisal' of Tenth Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Planning Commission has already dissolved wit effect from 1st October 2004 the Consultative Groups set up for the Mid-term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan (2002—07).

(b) and (c) It has been decided to revert to the earlier practice of consulting individuals separately as part of the Mid-Term Appraisal process. The exercise of Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan (2002—07) is progressing satisfactorily and no hurdles are being experienced in the process of Appraisal of the Plan.

Non-working of PCOs in far-flung areas

†*30. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that PCOs in far-flung rural areas of the country remain out of order due to prolonged faults in telephone lines and instruments;

(b) if so, the number of the PCOs that remained out of order for more than three months, State-wise; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government for improving the telephone system at the PCO level?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Sir, PCOs generally do not remain out of order for long duration. However, some Village Public Telephones (VPTs), working on MARR system, WLL system and on long overhead lines have remained out of order for longer duration than normal period for restoration.

(b) PCOs other than VPTs lying faulty for more than 3 months; NIL. State-wise list of VPTs that are lying faulty for more than three months as on 31.10.2004 is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.